

# LONESTAR NEWS

## SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION, 2BDE



November 2005



### *Words from Lone Star 6*

Hello Lonestars,

As I write this, the battalion's advanced party just arrived in Kuwait after an 18 hour flight. Within days, the entire battalion will be in Kuwait joining up with our equipment, getting final updates on enemy activity, testing our weapons, undergoing our last formal training and configuring our equipment for our mission in Iraq. It's taken over a year of intense training and reorganization but we are finally meeting our nation's call and as it states in the Soldiers creed; we ***"stand ready to deploy, engage and destroy the enemies of the United States in close combat"***. This is our mission and we are ready.

Over the past month we've accomplished much, from loading our equipment on the rail head, firing all our weapons, getting mandatory training completed and preparing to turn over all our facilities to the installation. We've spent many long hours at work including weekends and even had the opportunity to enjoy a day of fun at the fall festival. To the Soldiers, thanks for all your hard work and dedication. To the families, an even more heartfelt thanks for what you do and what you will do taking care of the home front over the next year. We can all be proud to be part such a great organization that can accomplish so much in a short period of time.

A special thanks to the family readiness group (FRG) for making the fall festival at BLORA such a great event for the Soldiers and families. Everyone I talked to had a great time, especially with the dunking booth, rock climbing wall, live band and other activities of the day. A special thanks to our unit sponsors, Mrs. Rena Peele-Shivar from Remax and Mr. Pearson of Miller and Lents. We couldn't of done it without their generous time and donations.

We have a tough and critical mission ahead in Iraq. The battalion will perform all our traditional missions including collecting and providing the intelligence to brigade from all our different collectors such as the UAV, Prophet and HUMIT teams, along with the ever critical high end communications for voice and data and our digital systems.

### **Lonestar Happenings**

#### **Promotions:**

CW3 Watkins (A Co)  
SFC Cross (A Co)  
SSG Knight (A Co)  
SGT Villa (HHC)  
SGT Hedge (HHC)  
SGT Thompson (HHC)  
SPC Masser (HHC)  
PFC Stickel (HHC)  
SPC Britt (HHC)  
PFC Santana (HHC)  
PFC Sanderlin (HHC)  
PFC Jacobson (HHC)  
PFC Brasier (HHC)  
PV2 Schoonover (B Co)  
PFC Carter (A Co)



**PFC Story and SGT Cowell train for the upcoming deployment**

Additionally we will operate the detention facility for the brigade lead by our military police platoon and provide the life support for the battalion and the brigade headquarters. The additional mission that we have, and that is critical to the success in Iraq, is training parts of the Iraqi Army. This mission will allow the Iraqis to protect their country and allow for a draw down of US forces in the future.

I'll update you all with periodic newsletters from Iraq and let you know as much as I can about the happenings in the battalion. I would recommend checking the web site every other week to catch the updates.

For the families and friends of the battalion - if you have questions or concerns please contact your FRG rep or the Rear Detachment commander, CPT Townsell and SSG Blosser. We'll do all that we can to make the deployment easier on you.

As mentioned before, I ask you to regularly communicate with your Soldier's company and rear detachment and stay engaged with the FRG. Please keep them current on all changes with your contact information, which includes telephone number, email address and physical location. This way, we can know when you need assistance and allow us to efficiently pass updates from Iraq.

These newsletters are accessible via the 4th Infantry Division website. To access the Battalion webpage with links to Battalion history, the FRG page and information about the Battalion's Crest /Insignia, Mission and contact information, go to [www.hood.army.mil](http://www.hood.army.mil), on the right under Major Unit's click on 4th Infantry Division, once you are at the Division webpage, click on Units, then 2nd Brigade and 2nd STB at the bottom. Look under FRG for the access to all of the Battalion's links.

*We are soldiers and we must do our duty. It is hard to fight wars in times of peace, but alas, that is the 20 years from now when we are morbidly obese at the VFW, we will tell tales not of deployment woes, and of briefings in Palmer Theater, or of misspent middle age, but of yarns of glory and the great deeds accomplished in Mesopotamia when we rode with the STB.*

FIRST IN!

## **Lone Star FRG Leaders**

### **COMMAND GROUP**

LTC AND MRS. MURASKI  
CSM CARL CURTICE  
MRS. MURASKI (BN FRG)

### **HEADQUARTERS COMPANY**

CPT DAVE AND MRS. BOLENDER  
1SG TIMOTHY BROWN

### **ALPHA COMPANY**

CPT CARL CARTER  
1SG BOBBY MENDEZ  
MRS. WATKINS

### **BRAVO COMPANY**

CPT AND MRS. EVERINGHAM (FRG POC)

1SG PUGA  
MRS. SAUCEDO

### **REAR DETACHMENT**

CPT AUDRY TOWNSELL  
SSG RONALD BLOSSER



**STB Soldiers practice firing techniques**



## HHC

### Hurricanes

The HHC Hurricanes had their hands full once again with simultaneous operations during the latter half of October and early November. Not only is the company preparing for its deployment to Iraq by going through SRPs and last minute gunnery, but has had to move the entire motorpool. Other training highlights include MiTT training (Iraqi Culture, Call for Fire/Communications, First Aid/MEDEVAC, TCP/Cordon and Search, and High Risk of Capture) as well as MOUT training executed by the MPs. HHC presented Army Achievement Awards to 1st Lt. John Ryan, Staff Sgt. Steven Stone and Sgt. Gladys Shakir. Soldiers promoted include Hedge, Thompson and Villa all to Sergeant.

The deployment is a culmination of all the high-optempo training the Hurricanes have been executing, and executing with the motivation and conviction of true warriors. All of the long FTXs, multitude of ranges, the NTC rotation and other missions come down to this year-long "business trip" to the Middle East. Once we hit the ground, the training will continue, and continue until we redeploy. Having experienced them working first hand, I know the Soldiers, NCOs and officers of the Hurricanes have the heart for it!

HURRICANES!  
HURRICANE 6

## Alpha Company

### Stalkers

With deployment on the horizon the Shadow Stalkers have wrapped it, packed it, shipped it and await the call forward. These last two months have been very busy for the soldiers and families of alpha company and now they are enjoying the quiet before the storm.

There were several promotions this past month. The Headquarters platoon congratulated CW2 Watkins as he pinned on CW3. The UAV platoon congratulates SFC (P) Moore for coming out on the E-8 list. Other deserving soldiers included SSG Knight, SPC Clark, SPC Wayne, SPC Saliba and SPC Wisniewski.

As we bid farewell to Mrs. Cottrell as the FRG leader we welcomed Mrs. Watkins who has eagerly assumed the duties as FRG leader and looks forward to working with the alpha company families and the battalion FRG. If anyone is interested in filling a FRG position please contact Mrs. Watkins or me at our contact number or email address. I would like to wish all the families a safe and happy holiday season.

**STALKERS LEAD THE WAY!**

- ❖ **Lonestar Newsletters are posted on the 4ID, 2STB website (FRG link)**
- ❖ **View the New Brigade Family Deployment handbook**
- ❖ **Go the 4ID homepage at [www.hood.army.mil/4ID/](http://www.hood.army.mil/4ID/) and follow the links:**
  - "UNITS", "2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade", "2STB",**
  - "Family Readiness Group"**



**STB Soldiers practice entering a building**



## **Bravo Company**

### **Bulldogs**

The Bulldogs have accomplished all of our pre-deployment tasks and are ready to go. Our Soldiers have a lot to be proud of and are ready for the challenges we will face as we install the brigade's voice and data network in Kuwait and then in Iraq. We have spent the last month focusing our training on Soldier skills and preparing individuals and families for the deployment. The training covered a large range of topics including first aid, weapons qualification and Iraqi cultural awareness to name a few. Much of it was taught by subject matter experts within the brigade or instructors on mobile training teams brought in by the Army. I believe that this training has left us much better prepared for the deployment than we were the last time the 4th Infantry Division was sent to Iraq.

The Bulldogs' FRG was able to hold a farewell luncheon at Chili's on the 9th of November thanks in large part to numerous generous donations. It was a good opportunity for us to get together as family and friends and enjoy each others' company without the pressures of work. Our Soldiers are the strength of this unit and it was a great way to pay them back for all of the hard work that has made us so successful over the last year.

The next year will push all of us to our limits, but I know what our Soldiers and families are made of and I know that we can handle it. I am extremely proud of the Bulldogs and their families and have no doubts that we will be successful in our mission supporting the Warhorse Brigade.

**"THIS IS OUR BACKYARD SIR," BULLDOG 6 OUT!!**

## **Feeling the Impact of Army Life?**

Having difficulty finding and obtaining help?

Dealing with injuries, physical symptoms, or stress associated with combat?

Having troubles connecting with family and friends?

Unsure of your next step?

Care Managers Can Help!

Call the Behavioral Health Deployment

Help Care Line

535-4497

## **Army One Source**

Is a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week, toll-free information and referral telephone service available to all soldiers and families.

AOS provides information for every day concerns, deployment and reintegration issues, relocation, financial matters, family support, relationships, education and schooling, health and wellness, and more. Additionally, if there is a need for face-to-face counseling, AOS will provide referrals to professional civilian counselors for assistance.

[www.armyonesource.com](http://www.armyonesource.com)

1-800-464-8107

## ***A word from Chaplain Hernandez***

The time is here - a few more days and we will leave to Iraq, and some already left to prepare the way for the rest of us that are still here. But soon all we will be there, together to accomplish with the mission that has been assigned to us. But it is another mission that all of us have, and that is to stay together, now more than ever, here and there in Iraq. Some are stronger than others, and for that reason, it is very important that the Lone Star family take care of each other, and in this way, everyone will pass this coming time better. Now is the time when we need to, regardless of the name of your faith, all together have the same prayer - that all of us here and in Iraq are protected by God. I would like to include some words from Psalm 91: ***"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress my God, in whom I trust."***

I was in Iraq for a year, and it was a hard year, but I am telling you I took these words and I made them my own, for every single day of the year. I can tell you that it is truth, and God was and still is and will be forever my refuge and fortress. I strongly recommend to all of you Lone Star family members to take the words of this Psalm and make them yours every single day of this time that is coming. Amen, Amen, Amen.